

R E M A R K SAMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended by cancelling claim 11, amending claims 1, 12, and 21, claims 2 -10, 13-20, 22- 23 are unchanged. Claims 1-10, 12-23 remain in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

Claims 1-17 & 19-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Lee (U.S. 2003/0042587).

The invention as now claimed by applicant in base claim 1 includes the limitation (previously recited in cancelled claim 11) of a "programmable module of configurable logic blocks". As stated in the specification at page 7 line 29 to page 8 line 5:

"Each programmable module 4 comprises configurable logic blocks typically forming part of a field programmable logic array 40 as illustrated in FIG.4. The logic array 40 is configurable by programming each programmable module 4 with the assistance of routing switches 3 via the input-output ports 10. Thus as shown, the input-output ports 10 are selectively and operatively coupled to a programmable module 4. Advantageously, the programmable module 4 is programmable to perform logic functions and in use the sensor element 6 provides a signal Si to the programmable module 4".

The advantage of using "the programmable module of configurable logic blocks" (the *field programmable logic array* 40) in the programmable sensor array of claim 1 assists in device miniaturization and reduced design and verification costs. In Lee the module or chip (102) is not a programmable module of configurable logic blocks. The module or chip(102) described in Lee at page 2 paragraphs [0054], [0055], [0063], [0065] and [0071] includes devices such as Central Processing Units, Control devices, Flash Memories and the like. It is therefore submitted that there is no mention of chip (102) being a programmable module of configurable logic blocks. From the foregoing remarks, it is clear that Lee does not describe the invention as now claimed in amended claim 1.

Regarding the rejection of claims 2-17, 19 and 20, claim 11 has been deleted and the limitation recited in this claim has been included in amended claim 1. Also, it is submitted that since applicant believes that amended claim 1 is novel over Lee, then dependent claims 2-10, 12-17, 19 and 20 should also be considered novel over Lee.

Regarding the rejection of claim 21, this claim has been re-written and includes the limitation of "programmable module of configurable logic blocks". Hence, for the same reasons given regarding claim 1, it is submitted that claim 21 is novel over Lee. Also, since the applicant believes that amended claim 21 is novel over Lee, then dependent claims 22-23 should also be considered novel over Lee.

Claims 1-3, 7, 12, 18, & 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Stam et al (U.S.5,837,994).

The examiner is of the opinion that Stam et al does not disclose the limitation of deleted claim 11. This limitation is now included in amended claim 1, namely, a "programmable module of configurable logic blocks". This limitation is also recited in amended claim 21. It is therefore submitted that amended claims 1 and 21 and all their depending claims are novel over Stam et al.

Accordingly, this application is believed to be in proper form for allowance and an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to 502117.

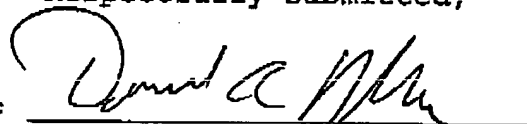
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